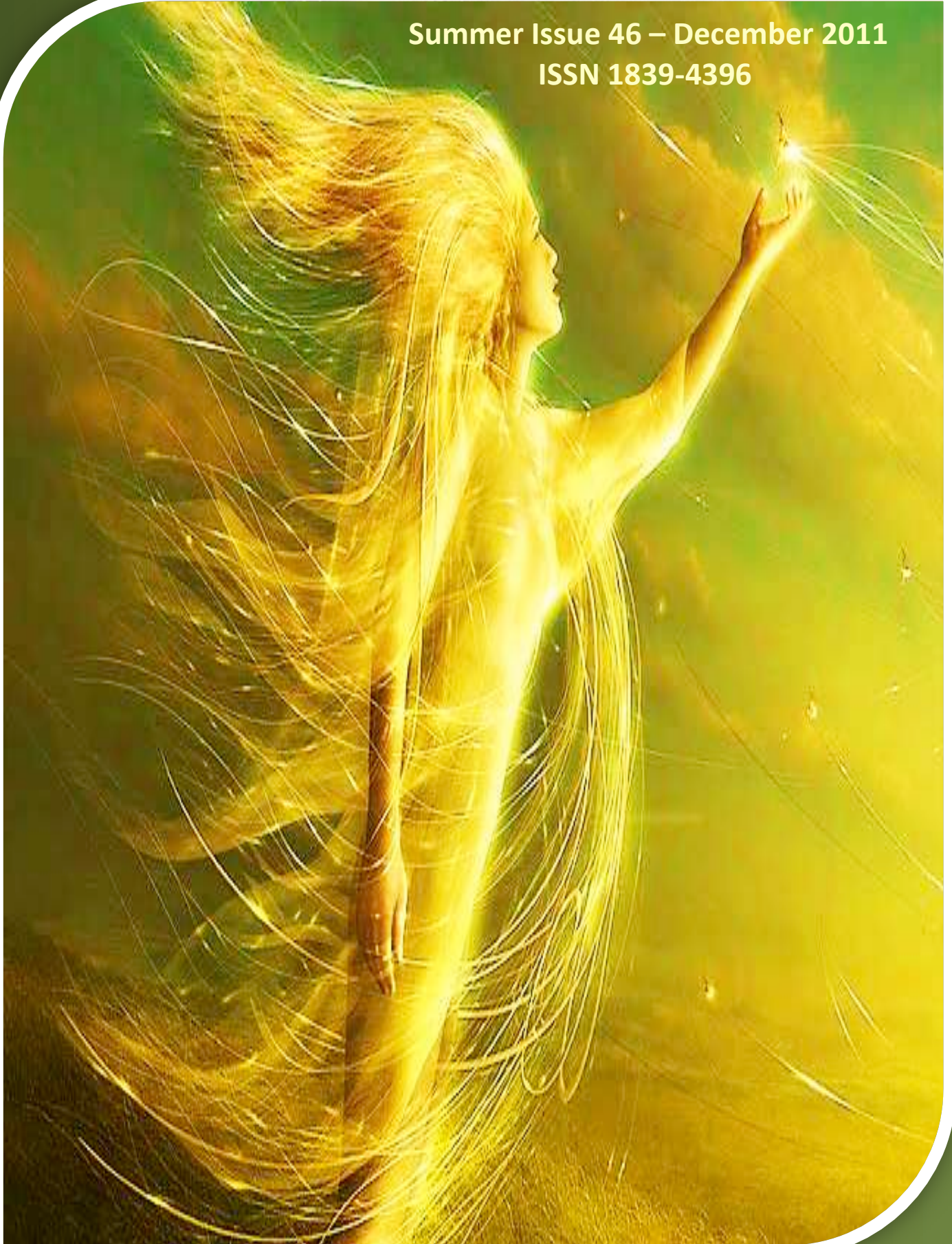


AXIS MUNDI

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Blessed Litha



AXIS MUNDI

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The beginning of a circle is also its end. Not I, but the world says it: all is one. And yet everything comes in season. - Heraklitos of Ephesos



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In addition to our regular Full Moon Circles we also run workshops and classes which are highly interactive and experiential, focusing on participation and engagement of participants. If you want to keep abreast of SOL's circles, gatherings, workshops and activities please click on the banner below to check out our Events Calendar.



SPHERES OF LIGHT & AXIS MUNDI ARE BASED IN AUSTRALIA. ALL EVENTS HOSTED BY SOL ARE HELD IN THE SYDNEY-ILLAWARRA AREA OF NSW.

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Cover – <http://www.coolest-wallpapers.com/fantasy/wallpapers/girl-fantasy-wallpapers.jpg>





Seasons Greetings

From Axis Mundi

FROM THE EDITOR

Well we have now come to the end of another transforming year. 2011 had been a metamorphosing year, where major changes have taken place in so many lives, physically, mentally and spiritually. The expectation for 2012 will be much of the same particularly for me as I am now in a 4 personal year with a second Saturn return kicking me up the backside to ensure I do what needs to be done as I venture into new unknown territory.

I guess what is on the minds of most people is the big question regarding the outcome for 2012? Of course we are all aware of the prophecy of doom and gloom and world destruction; however, I refuse to allow the negativity that one is confronted with in the media and on the internet to frighten me. Yes, we are all faced with some potentially serious challenges but with positive attitudes and action, I believe we can bring about a positive transformation to our planet next year and beyond.

With a change in global consciousness, many people believe it is possible to break through the barriers and tear down the walls of indifference in our society. Believers in a new awakening are now consciously trying to make this world a better place through positive thinking, words and deeds.

Evidently at sunrise on December 21, 2012 for the first time in 26,000 years the Sun rises to conjunct the intersection of the Milky Way and the plane of the ecliptic, creating a great cross of stars and planets. This cosmic cross is considered to be a representation of the Tree of Life - a tree associated in all the world's spiritual traditions.

It is believed that this alignment will open a channel of cosmic energy that will flow through the earth, cleansing it and all that dwells upon it, raising it to a higher level of vibration. The time is now ripe, for each of us to rise above ourselves, and to be the change that we truly want to see in the world.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Axis Mundi and Spheres Of Light to wish good vibrations to all our readers, members, contributors and sponsors and a very Blessed Litha and a safe and happy holiday season.

**Blessings,
Janine Donnellan**

Astrology- <http://EzineArticles.com/5846340>



SOL's Litha Ritual

By Amethyst





Some time ago I wrote an article about when spirit speaks. Well they did it again! December 2010 right after the Litha ritual, spirit said I was going to do next year's Litha ritual. On the way home that night, I must have talked Rayvensclaw's ear off about what I wanted to do.

Basically I was told that I was going to do a Sun God ritual, and at first I just thought we would be bringing in the aspect of the Sun God, but from several different pantheons. As I researched the different pantheons of Sun Gods, it didn't take me long to realise that only one god was going to let me work with him in the ritual – and that was RA!

Also I have long admired the 4 phases of the moon, not just 3, for the goddess, this being –

Maiden, Mother, Warrior & Crone. RA agreed that that was how the quarters were to be, so then I needed to research which Egyptian Goddess would fit into each quarter. Mother, Warrior & Crone were easy, but RA said that MAAT would not fit as Maiden (he wouldn't say why). So I found RENPET, who has very little, and I mean very little written about her, & he said she was the one. So there you have it, all 4 goddesses.

I was at a book fair this year & a tarot book without cards jumped out at me. It was "The Ancient Egyptian Oracle – The Cards of RA – MAAT". RA said that I could use this for contemplation in the ritual. He also advised me that we were to be in Egyptian like clothing. Thank the gods for Xmas, the decorations at this time of year are great for

making a crook (large ornamental candy cane) and flail (artificial flower pick).

So on the night of Friday 16th December we gathered to celebrate Litha by honouring The Great God Ra, who, at this time in the cycle of the year, stands strong in his power.

We commenced the ritual by the power of the mighty dragons of Egypt and the Goddess Renpet, Maiden of Sunrise, Goddess Hathor, Mother of Midday, Goddess Neith, Warrior of the Evening and Goddess Nephtys, Crone of Midnight was summoned to build the temple with a wall of white energy.

The great God Ra, Lord of the Sun, Father of Creation, was then invited to build the roof of this our temple with a ceiling of white light and look with favour on this ritual.

We were then taken on a meditative journey to connect to Ra where he showed everyone the wonders of ancient Egypt. After the meditation we shared our experiences and then were given the opportunity to choose a card with a Egyptian motive which gave us an insight into our spiritual journey.

We thanked our ancient hosts for their presence and then the circle was closed and we all finished the evening with a sumptuous Litha feast.

More information regarding this circle and past circles can be found in our Book Of Shadows. Our next Full Moon Circle will be held near Engadine on Friday, February 3, 2012. Please contact us for further details if you would like to attend.



God Ra

Mighty Ra

The divine illumination

May your light descend and fill my heart and mind.

May your light activate and unite within me the One.

May I become the manifest potential.

So mote it be.

~ Janine Donnellan

The ancient Egyptian sun god Ra is the quintessential summer deity: Ra or Re, is one of the most important gods of ancient Egypt. Ra was chief of the cosmic deities and was sometimes called the creator and father of all things. Early Egyptian kings alleged descent from him and added his name to their own royal titles. Various other Egyptian gods were frequently identified with him, such as Amon and Atum.

Ra was regarded as the creator of everything; he was usually crowned with the sun disk encircled by the uraeus (a stylized representation of the sacred

cobra). The sun itself was taken to be either his body or his eye. Ra is usually represented with the body of a man and the head of a hawk, holding an ankh & sceptre. Ra had several manifestations, including that of the lion.

Ra was said to command the chariot that rode across the sky during the day and battling the forces of evil and darkness by night. When the sun finally set, it is said that Ra travelled into the underworld to do battle with his nemesis, Apep.

The chief location of Ra worship was Heliopolis (a Greek word meaning city of the sun). According to the Heliopolitan cosmology, Ra was said to have created himself, either out of a primordial lotus

blossom, or on the mound that emerged from the primeval waters. He then created Shu (air) and Tefnut (moisture), who in turn engendered the earth god Geb and the sky goddess Nut. Ra was said to have created humankind from his own tears and the gods Hu (authority) and Sia (mind) from blood drawn from his own penis. Ra was often combined with other deities to enhance the prestige of the latter, as in Re-Atum, Amun-Ra, or in the formula "Ra in Osiris, Osiris in Ra".

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Sun Gods

It's amazing what you find when you start to do some research! There are some fascinating Sun Gods out there. Here's an introduction to some of them, but as with all religions, there are often many names for the sun god.

ARYAMAN (Hindu)

Is one of the early Vedic deities (devas). His name signifies "bosom friend" and he is a third son. He is an Aditya, a solar deity. His path is supposed to be the Milky Way.

ATEN (Egyptian)

Is the disk of the sun in ancient Egyptian mythology, and originally an aspect of Ra. Aten was the focus of the monotheistic religion of Atenism established by Amenhotep IV. The full title of the god was The Rahu who rejoices in the horizon, in his/her Name of the Light which is seen in the sun disc. This lengthy name was often shortened to Ra-Horus-Aten or just Aten in many texts.

BELENUS (Celtic)

Bel, Belenos (also Belenus) was worshipped in Celtic areas of Gaul, Austria, Britain and Spain. He is particularly associated with Cornwall. West Cornwall being anciently

called Belerion, the place of Bel. He was the Celtic sun god and had shrines from the Adriatic to England. In the Roman period he was identified with Apollo.

DABOG (Slavic)

A south Slavic sun god, son of the god Svarog. God of the herd and of precious metals. He was worshipped in Ukraine, Poland, and Russia. In Kiev, statues could be found of Dabog and in the Igor-song (1185) the Russians are mentioned as his grand-children. In Poland he is called Dazbog.

HELIOS (Greek)

Helios was imagined as a handsome god crowned with the shining aureole of the Sun, who drove the chariot of the sun across the sky each day to earth-circling Oceanus and through the world-ocean returned to the East at night.

As time passed, Helios was increasingly identified with the god of light, Apollo. However, they were also often viewed as two distinct gods (Helios was a Titan, whereas Apollo was an Olympian).

INTI (Inca)

According to the Inca mythology, Inti is the sun god, as well a patron deity of the Inca Empire. His exact origin is not known. The most common story says he is the son of Viracocha, the god of civilization. He was worshipped mostly by farmers who relied on the sun to receive good harvests. Although he was the second most revered deity after Viracocha, he received the greatest number of offerings. Inti was also known as Apu Punchau, which means "leader [of the] daytime". Inti is represented as a golden disk with a human face. In the remains of the city of Machu Picchu, it is possible to see a shadow clock which describes the course of the Sun personified by Inti.

KUAT (Mamaiuran)

Kuat is the sun god for the Mamaiurans, an Amazon Indian tribe that lives in Brazil. There are several different stories as to how he became the sun god, one of them describing how vultures became bald.

MAUI (Polynesian)

Maui was a hero of Polynesian mythology. He thought that if the Sun were moving slower across the sky, there would be more hours of light in one day. Maui cut off the sacred tresses of his wife, Hina, to make a rope that would not burn in the Sun. With his rope he caught the Sun as it was rising and beat it with the magic jawbone of his grandmother. The Sun was so weak after the beating that it could not run but only creep along its course. In this way, sunlight lasted longer, and it was possible to work more during the day.

PUGU (Yukaghir)

The Yukaghir god of the sun and of justice. He is revered as the defender of the oppressed and the punisher of evil deeds. He kills evil demons with his sun-flail in hopes of bringing peace to his land.

SOL (Roman)

The Latin god Sol, associated with the Greek god Helios, was the deity who drove his chariot, which carried the sun, across the sky

every day. This made Sol a god of some importance to farming and crops, as well as to the taking of auspices to the ever superstitious Romans. According to Roman sources, the worship of Sol was introduced by Titus Tatius. The Roman ritual calendars or fasti also mention a feast for Sol Indiges on December 11th, and a sacrifice for Sol and Luna on August 28th.

TEN SUNS (Chinese)

Chinese people believed that there existed ten suns that appeared in turn in the sky during the Chinese ten-day week. The ten suns decided to appear all together. The combined heat made the life on the Earth unbearable. Nine were killed by Yi and that is why we only see one sun today.

TSOHANOAI (Navaho)

For the Navajo Indians of North America, Tsohanoai is the Sun god. Every day, he crosses the sky, carrying the Sun on his back. At night, the Sun rests by hanging on a peg in his house.

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LITHA RITUAL MEDITATION



Sit in a comfortable position, feet firmly on the ground and your hands resting gently in your lap. Take a deep breath and then exhale, breathing out all the tension in your body. Feel all of your muscles relax.

Now feel that your feet have roots and that those roots are burrowing deep down into the soil. See those roots reach deeper and deeper into the warm golden light that is the centre of the earth. Feel that warmth penetrate your roots. Feel this warm energy rise up through your legs, up through your body and on up through your head. Feel this energy spill out of the top of your head and cascade back to the earth in a never-ending cycle.

You feel yourself leave your body and enter a cool white mist. As you journey through this mist you feel it becoming warmer and darker. As you continue on further, the air around you becomes quite hot and dark.

You find yourself inside a dark building made of large stone blocks. Ahead of you, you see a dimly lit set of stairs. When you reach the stairs, you see that they are going up and that there seems to be a bright light at the top. As you walk up the stairs, you notice images painted on the walls.

On reaching the top of the stairs, you look out and are struck by the bright light and the heat! You realise that it is the sun burning brightly down. Everywhere you look there is sand, sand and more sand. At the moment you are shielded from the sun's direct rays by the building you are in. This building you notice, casts a triangular shadow.

You walk out to have a better look at this building, and you realise it is a pyramid, and looking down at yourself, you realise that you are in dressed in ancient Egyptian clothing. You realise that you are now in ancient Egypt and that the sun is very hot.

Suddenly there is a large shadow protecting you from the sun's rays, and you see that it is man-like. As the figure gets smaller and comes nearer, you notice it is a golden-skinned man, dressed in royal clothing. But when you try to look at his face, you see that he has a falcon's head instead.

He tells you that his name is RA and you realise it is the Sun God himself who stands in front of you, so you show your reverence. He takes your hand and tells you that he has come to show you the wonders of Egypt. I will leave you now with RA for a short while and call you back when it is time.

RA tells you that it is time for you to return from whence you came. RA leads you back to the entrance of the pyramid and as you enter you are momentarily blinded. When your eyes adjust and you start to descend, you realise that the images you saw painted on the walls of the stairway are of your time today with RA. You see a white mist ahead of you on the stairs, and as you enter it, its coolness comes as a shock to you after the heat of the desert.

You move through the cool white mist and soon you are back into this room, back in your bodies, wriggle your fingers and toes and stretch your arms, you feel refreshed and invigorated. Open your eyes when you are ready.



Blessed Litha

Litha (Summer Solstice) Dec 20-23

This is the longest day of the year, and a time of joy and strength for the light. It is a time when the powers of nature are at their fullest. In the past this was often marked with bonfires and celebrants staying awake through the short night. To leap over the bonfire was to assure a good crop; some said the grain would grow as tall as the leapers could jump.

Normally due to fire restrictions in Australia throughout summer, celebrations for this Sabbat tend to be quite different from those throughout the rest of the year. When there are fire restrictions no candles can be lit, no cauldrons burned, and no open flames are allowed outside throughout much of the country. This year however, the weather has been a bit cooler and wetter so perhaps we can perhaps celebrate with fire for a change.

This is a time of ascendancy of the God, at his most powerful now, while the burgeoning Goddess brings forth the bounty of the Earth.

Litha is also a time when the veil between the worlds is the thinnest and one can create a special banquet called 'The Feast of the Faeries'. This is a magickal night where we can honour the fae. You can also connect with the Faeries on Samhain and Beltane.

The actual day of the Summer Solstice is a powerful time where one can access their realm with caution, one should always connect to the Elemental rulers first.

Faeries are creatures that exist in gardens and natural woodlands. They come in all shapes and sizes and can look like humans and can have wings.

People who are psychic may be able to see them in gardens, forests and water. Faeries can be quite mischievous and should be treated with great respect.

Sunset is a magical time to connect to elemental and nature spirits. On the Saturday afternoon of the scrying weekend a couple of years ago, I ventured down to the pond with my camera. In that mystical between time I gazed into the glassy surface of the water

and perceived the reflection of the moon. I could also see small golden balls of light within the water that I immediately assumed were the reflections of the stars.



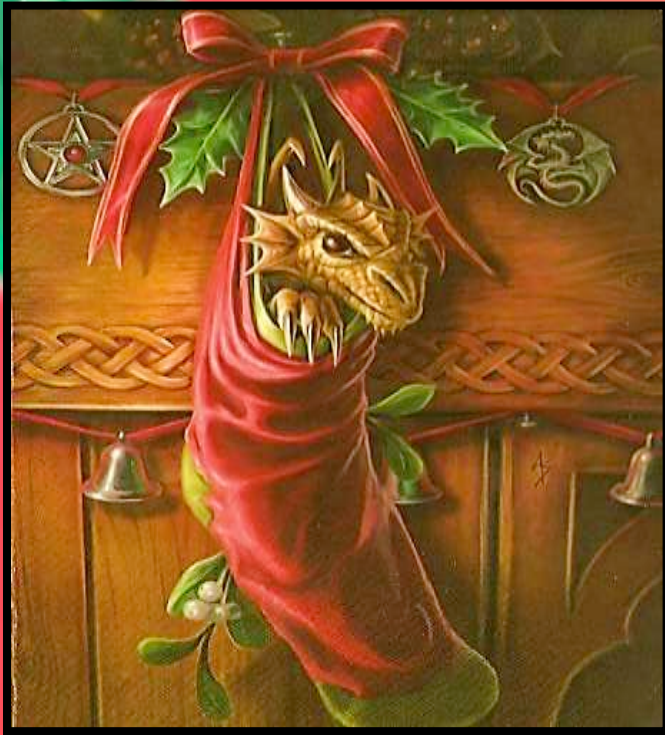
When I looked to the skies I realized the stars were absent from view. Peering through the viewfinder of the camera I could see the golden balls of light moving under the surface of the water, I then had that excited moment of realization that what I was looking at were actually undines of the elemental kingdom.

Etheric in nature, they exist within the water itself and this is why they rarely can be seen with the normal physical vision. As they are entities united with water, Undines are also governed by the Moon and are associated with the directional domain of the West. The undines work with the vital essences and liquids of plants, animals, and human beings.

If you are planning to connect to the Faerie realm this Litha be sure to leave them an offering, a token of your appreciation. They usually like sweet offerings like candy and chocolate.

Stray Thoughts: Pagan Christmas

By Rayvensclaw



I was doing some research the other day and thought I would share some of the information that I had gathered seeing it is the last for this year.

"Pagan" and "Christmas" can this be correct? Well in the Old Dart "UK" there are in excess of 20,000 Pagans and roughly 80% celebrate at Christmas, some celebrate this event for the benefit of their children, some because that's how it has historically been since they can remember and some celebrate the pagan season of Yule.

Christmas is an annual commemoration of the birth of Jesus celebrated on the 25th of December. Actually the birth of Jesus lies somewhere between 7 and 2 BC and from September to March but the actual date is unknown.

The Christmas tree is considered by some as Christianisation of the Pagan tradition surrounding the Winter Solstice, which used evergreen boughs, and an adaptation of Pagan tree worshipping. Christmas Carols, were originally communal folk songs sung during celebrations like "Harvest Tide".

The Christmas Dinner was originally a celebratory meal to give thanks for a successful harvest, and to celebrate fertility for the crops, animals and themselves.

Gift Giving - This was common in the Roman period to celebrate Saturnalia (The Roman God of Agriculture and Plenty), an ancient festival which took place in late December. Gift giving was banned by the Catholic Church in the middle ages due to its Pagan origins. (I bet the shop keepers were happy when that was stopped).

Scandinavians still call Christmas "JUL" which is synonymous with their custom of burning the Jule log in December.

So the season of good cheer started out as a Pagan celebration to give thanks for the end of winter (dark) and to welcome in the summer (light). It has been said that Pagans celebrate the Sun, not the Son.

Just a few more points that I would like to add:

- ISIS, the Egyptian title for 'Queen of Heaven' gave birth to a son at about the time of the winter solstice. The term "Yule" is the Chaldean (Babylonian) name for "infant" or "little child"
- The Mistletoe branch symbolized "the man, the branch" and was regarded as a divine branch, a corrupt representation of the true Messiah. Both Mistletoe and Holly are/were considered fertility plants by Pagans.
- Santa has 8 reindeers; reindeer are symbolic of the Stag God.

Be happy and see you in 2012. Blessings be upon you and yours.

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Pagan Origins of the Christmas Tree



Here in Australia, at the height of our Midsummer, millions of people are erecting and decorating plastic Christmas trees and the occasional weedy looking pine tree in anticipation of the Christmas day celebrations. I am quite certain that very few people actually give due consideration as to why we continue with this strange tradition, especially one that originated in the Northern Hemisphere where this time of year coincides with their winter solstice.

A Christmas tree, also known as a Yule tree, is one of the most popular traditions

associated with the celebration of Christmas throughout the world. It is normally an evergreen coniferous tree (or plastic copy) that is brought into a home and is decorated with Christmas lights and colourful ornaments.

Did you know that many of the modern Christmas traditions began hundreds of years before Christ was born. Some of these traditions date back more than 4000 years. The addition of Christ to the celebration of the Winter Solstice did not occur until 300 years after Christ died and as late as 1800, in fact

some Christian sects, like the Puritans, forbade their members from celebrating Christmas because it was considered a pagan holiday, which is absolutely correct, historically it was a pagan holiday.

The Christmas tree is derived from several solstice traditions. The symbolic meaning of Christmas trees originates in pagan culture where the evergreen represents life, rebirth, and stamina needed to endure the cold and harsh winter months.

The Romans decked their halls with garlands of laurel and placed candles in trees to decorate for the celebration of Saturnalia in honour of Saturn, the god of agriculture. The Saturnalia was a special time of peace and equality when wars could not be declared, when slaves and masters could eat at the same table, and when gifts were exchanged as a symbol of affection and brotherhood.

In Scandinavia, they hung apples from evergreen trees at the winter solstice to remind themselves that spring and summer will come again. The evergreen tree was the special plant of their sun god, Baldor. At this time fir trees were also burned to commemorate the life that stirs even in the most frigid grips of winter. These traditions also marked the end of the old year and the beginning of a new year.

The ancient Egyptians worshipped many gods, their Sun God was called Ra, and he had the head of a hawk and wore the sun as a blazing disc in his crown. At the winter solstice, they would prepare for the coming of the Sun God by filling their homes with green palm rushes which symbolized for them the triumph of life over death.

In ancient Britain the Druids used to celebrate the Winter Solstice by keeping the Festival of Nolahg. It needs to be said at this point however, that there is little contemporary

evidence for their practices as it was an oral tradition, and thus little can be said of them with assurance. It is believed that they observed this season in their great ringed temples at Stonehenge and Avebury. Many of our Christmas customs such as the Yule log, and the use of mistletoe and holly originated there.



There is one tree that was especially sacred to the Druids this was the mighty oak. During their winter festivals, they would decorate oak trees with apples and burn candles as a way of offering thanks to the gods who gave them sunlight and food.

So if you are like me erecting a Yule Tree over the summer holidays, bear in mind that it doesn't have to be just a representation of a Christ - mass, it can be a representation of what the tree was originally intended for: a symbol of life, rebirth, a time of peace and of giving thanks for our good fortune.

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Fire Scrying



Scrying is a psychological technique to acquire information by extrasensory means through the unconscious mind, which then makes it understandable to the conscious mind in the form of sensory metaphors. These sensory metaphors include images, sounds, tactile sensations, smells and tastes, and feelings.

The word 'scry' literally means to see. It is important to understand that the images seen during scrying are not transmitted through the eyes. They are like images we see in dreams.

A vital factor to success when scrying is the absence of distractions. You must have solitude, especially in the beginning when you are imprinting the conditioning necessary to access your altered reality.

Try to pick a time for scrying when you are reasonably certain you will not be called away or distracted by external activities.

Did you know that you can scry with fire? Fire scrying is one of the easiest methods as the flickering fire has a hypnotic effect. You can gaze into any fire - a bonfire, campfire and a candle flame.

Scrying by Fire or fire scrying is a method of divination sometimes used by the ancients to see events of the past, present and future. If you have a campfire or bonfire allows the fire to die down and then gaze deep into the glowing embers. Just accept what images come into your mind. Sometimes they are actual scenes, but more often they are symbolic scenes needing further interpreting.

Candles are the easiest to use during a scrying session. You can even use different colour candles to add to the vibration of your scrying session. Start the process by sitting as still as possible and just stare into the flames. Just quiet your mind and you will soon fall into attunement with the flame.

Often the intent your desire will affect the speed, intensity and clarity of the answer you receive. Trust your subconscious because this is where your true natural abilities manifest. You may not even see anything in the scrying tool, you may receive the answer to the question in your mind as if by telepathy, or the answer may come to you later, perhaps in a dream. The most important thing is to practice this skill and eventually you will be able to scry successfully.

The purpose of fire gazing is to receive information about will, spirit, energy, passion, desire, healing, and excesses.

Exercises to help you Scry

Exercise 1 – Simple Object

Imagine a simple physical object in your mind. The easiest way is to gaze at an object then close your eyes and recreate it in your imagination. Try to make it complete and lifelike as possible.

Exercise 2 – Human Face

Visualise the face of someone you know quite well. Examine the head from all angles, including the back, notice the way the hair hangs, the lines around the eyes and around the mouth, the colour of the eyes, the texture of the skin.

Exercise 3 – Sounds of Nature

Remember the sound of a breeze in the trees, the gurgle of a rocky stream, the whine

of a mosquito next to your ear, the crack of a twig beneath your shoe, the sound of birds chirping in the trees, the sound of someone talking, someone laughing and finally someone whispering into your ear.

Exercise 4 – Tactile Perceptions

Close your eyes and visualise some small objects placed in front of you. Mentally reach out and feel around for these objects. clip, a book.

Exercise 5 – Olfactory Perception

Imagine a succession of smells, smell of a rose, garlic, freshly cut orange. With practice, each odour will become as distinct as it would be if it were in the room.

Exercise 6 – Taste Perception

In succession, imagine that you are tasting a fresh slice of lemon, a block of chocolate, a peppermint, an aspirin, a potato chip.

Some Last Thoughts

Don't try too hard: this is detrimental as you are concentrating too much on doing and not on receiving.

Relax: be comfortable with what you are doing in all ways.

Don't give up: everything worth doing requires time and effort. We should learn from our failures.

Practice and enjoy what you are doing.



Lion as a Fire Totem

The lion as a totem carries a group energy. Lions usually roam the countryside within a pride, so community is very important to them. If lion is your totem then you will have a strong sense of community or a desire to belong to a group.

The lion is known for its magnificent mane and ferocious roar. The roar is a predatory warning to let other animals know that it does not wish to fight, but will take a stand to protect the lionesses and cubs in his pride.

Myth also plays an important part in the symbology of the lion. The ancient Egyptians linked the Lion to power and wealth, and it became the symbol for the rising sun and gold.

Dreams

To encounter a lion in a Dream is to meet the archetypal presence of strength and ultimate

power. The dream is the indication that you have an opportunity to tame the wild beast with leadership, courage and truth. The lesson of the lion guides us to overcome the obstacles that cross our path. Lion is a powerful totem that teaches us to stand in our power and to speak our truth.

Adding the power of the Lion to your life can bring you success in your endeavours as your ability will be heightened with additional power and strength to enable you to cope with any of life's problems.

Medicine

Lion's medicine includes strength, courage, energy, self-fulfilment, feminine energy, co-operation, and community, Power of feminine energy, creativity, intuition and imagination.



Press Release: CloudCatcher Reclaiming WitchCamp Easter 2012 April 5-9 SE Queensland

The second ever Australian Reclaiming WitchCamp will take place over Easter next year in the magical land of SE Queensland; part of the caldera that forms the fertile hills and valleys around Mt Warning, also known as Wollumbin, or Cloud Catcher.

Reclaiming WitchCamps are famous for their connection to Starhawk, author of *The Spiral Dance*, a book that started many pagans off on their magical and ritual journeys. CloudCatcher follows the international model of WitchCamps, with an intensive Path of study in the mornings, an afternoon of eclectic Optional Offerings and then the high point of evening rituals.

Paths offered at CloudCatcher are Elements of Magic; a Path dedicated to Empowerment and Priestessing in the world and an inner Serpent Path of embodied magic. Teachers include well known Australian authors and presenters Gede Parma and Jane Meredith and two Reclaiming teachers from the US – Madrone Jack, a one-time Australian and organiser for the wildly successful California WitchCamp, and Paul Eaves from Minnesota who has organised and taught at WitchCamps for 20 years.

WitchCamp evening rituals are a very special blend of ecstatic and participative magic. They draw on the Camp theme, a mythical story and our intrinsic relationship to the earth and each other. Each Camp follows a unique 'Arc' as the story works its way through us; but the underlying purpose is to bring each person into deep awareness of their spirit, their empowerment and their magical self.

CloudCatcher's Theme for 2012 is:

We dance the elemental serpent paths over the edges of the ordinary into the cauldron of CloudCatcher.

Birthing from the fiery core into the starry heavens, this living earth is formed.
We come to learn from you.

Registrations are now open. You can read the Teachers' bios, read about the Camp story or read a fabulous article by Kate Vincent, detailing her experiences at the first Australian WitchCamp at:

http://australiareclaiming.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=35:kates-witchcamp-story&catid=12:articles-of-interest&Itemid=14.



JANE MEREDITH

Jane is an author and Priestess of the Goddess. She currently lives in Sydney. Her books are *Aphrodite's Magic: Celebrate and Heal Your Sexuality* and *Journey to the Dark Goddess* (forthcoming) and she teaches workshops on myth and ritual internationally. She is an organiser and teacher at CloudCatcher WitchCamp. Her website is: www.janemeredith.com

In the International Reclaiming Tradition, CloudCatcher WitchCamp will be a four day magical intensive, welcoming men and women. Featuring ecstatic ritual and in-depth magical studies, WitchCamps are extraordinary events which seek to strengthen the skills of those already on their spiritual paths, and introduce newcomers to the elements of magic. CloudCatcher will be guided by two International Reclaiming teachers, Madrone Jack and Paul Eves and four Australian teachers, including Gede Parma and Jane Meredith.

Every WitchCamp has a story, myth or theme that is explored throughout the Camp, our chosen story is that of the four Egyptian siblings, Isis, Osiris, Nephtys and Set.

Earl Witch price available until mid-January. \$500/\$450 which includes accommodation, food and all teaching. (After mid-Jan, \$550/\$500)

The main website for CloudCatcher is:
www.cloudcatcherwitchcamp.com

I look forward to seeing you there!





Healesville, Victoria 1-6th October, 2012

Greetings All!

Our first Australian Reclaiming WitchCamp was held in Victoria, at Easter, 2011, and was a great success. Two WitchCamps are planned for 2012: CloudCatcher and EarthSong WitchCamps.

EarthSong WitchCamp will be held in Healesville, Victoria, from Monday 1st October to Saturday 6th October, 2012. EarthSong is now being organized by the EarthSong WitchCamp Collective.

The EarthSong community is deeply engaged in shaping the magic of WitchCamp. We value the ability to work together to co-create the magic of EarthSong. We are looking for a teaching team that is inspired to demonstrate a commitment to the Reclaiming tradition in Australia.

INVITATION FOR STUDENT TEACHERS

Our teaching team includes Ravyn Stanfield who taught at the 2011 camp and is our continuity teacher, two qualified Reclaiming teachers yet to be announced, and three student teachers. We are now calling for student teachers to join the team. The student teachers will work alongside the Reclaiming teachers to offer deep, and transformative experiences throughout WitchCamp.

FREE TRAINING

As a student teacher you will receive free training so you will not be reimbursed for your work. However, your accommodation and meals may be covered, in the event that all the basic costs for EarthSong are met.

To be recognized as a Reclaiming teacher, an individual needs to have worked as a student teacher with a fully qualified Reclaiming teacher. Student teaching at

EarthSong offers the ideal opportunity to gain this experience in Australia, experience that once was only available to those who are willing and able to travel overseas. We strongly encourage Australian Reclaiming identified witches to apply.

THE EARTHSONG INTENTION

"Out of the darkness, upon the Earth, emerges a new interconnected tribe, which holds the energy of star fire and expresses itself in a myriad of life forms. Through voice, dance and sensuality, we dream our song into being and awaken to a new reality that lovingly shares our hearth with all beings who choose to join us."

Please review the following information and if you're interested in applying for a role as student teacher send a letter of interest, as per the instructions, no later than 31st December, 2011.

For further details please visit our website:
<http://earthsong.australiareclaiming.org.au>



TO REGISTER YOUR APPLICATION ON LINE

The best way to provide us with all the information we need to assess your application is to register your interest to become a student teacher on the Reclaiming WitchCamp Website:

www.witchcamp.org/teaching

If you haven't already, it is important that you create your account and complete an application on the site. Remember that you need to check the "Australian Reclaiming WitchCamp" as the camp you are available for. The collective will assess applications that have been created and filed on the WitchCamp Council website. The information you provide in completing the online application is necessary for us to fairly consider your application. We cannot consider an application without this information. Follow the online instructions to get a password and fill in the application and ensure you tick the box to make it "live" so we can actually view the application. If you do

not make it "live" we will not be able to see and assess the application.

EMAIL US YOUR COVER LETTER

Once you have done this, please indicate to us that you have made your application by emailing our selection collective at this address:

teaching@australiareclaiming.org.au

The teacher selection collective is a working group of EarthSong Organising Collective, a group of Reclaiming-identified witches and pagans from across Australia. We are developing an Australian Reclaiming community and hope that those who are passionate about Reclaiming will aid us into the future. Let us know how this invitation calls to you and what about you and your skills draws you to this work. In this email you will also need to tell us how you.....

- demonstrate that you are committed to building the Reclaiming community in Australia
- demonstrate that you have experience Priestessing, priesting and teaching in your own community

Remember, applications are due by 31st December, 2011.

Blessed Be

EarthSong teacher selection collective

Email: teaching@australiareclaiming.org.au

Web:

<http://earthsong.australiareclaiming.org.au>

EarthSong WitchCamp is supported by Pagan Awareness Network Inc.



Crystal – Aventurine

By Maria



When I started working with the fire crystal, in the form of a bracelet. It became evident this was not the one I was meant to do. The bracelet felt like it weighed a tone, in actual fact it probably weighs more in the region of couple of grams.

This fire crystal was certainly telling me 'no'. I heeded that message and proceeded to look for another crystal. So my advice to you, if for any reason you sense "NO" then follow that advice, otherwise it may prove to be very painful experience.

So what was I meant to be writing about? Without the slightest inkling as to what I should be looking for, I started looking through my collection of gems, complete faith that the Universe would inspire me. Finally I settled my eyes on Aventurine, a green crystal. I have two Aventurine bracelets; interestingly both went on, one on each wrist. There is a slight difference in colour and clarity in the crystal but ultimately they are both Aventurine.

Wow, it is the end of the year once again; time just flies or is it that we are so busy that we forget to stop occasionally? Either way 2011 is almost over so I would like to firstly wish you all a wonderful Christmas holiday and many blessings for the coming year.

What a lead up to the end of the year, I believe it could be classified as "chaos reigns". It certainly was fire to the fore, so much flaring up, and we haven't even got to the fireworks yet, only a couple of weeks to go for that wonderful display of what fire can create.

My initial plans for this months' article was to write about a crystal that would enhance that 'fire within'. As we all know, from time to time our plans go astray; we find ourselves distracted and our course changes. During such times we feel as though we are out of control and we have two choices, resist or give-in and go-with-the-flow. I chose to flow.





My first thought was “oh dear this may well be too much energy, it’s going to throw me out of balance.” To my surprise it didn’t, in fact it was to the contrary.

Aventurine is an air crystal; therefore it will assist with clear focus, healing, concentration etc. It is also a rejuvenating and soothing stone, it brings one back to balance, and of course a stone that promotes general health and wellbeing.

Well I certainly felt calmer, my thoughts had some logic to them, and I was able to get back some normality. If there, really is such a thing as normal.

In the midst of this trying time, Aventurine assisted in cooling the fire within. That spark is still there, just not a raging volcano ready to erupt. At times one doesn’t really know why certain crystals come up or why. It’s not until you really stop and put the pieces of the puzzle together that you realise what it’s all about.

There are so many more properties of this crystal but at times it’s just one or two aspects that are truly needed. That is exactly what has occurred here. This month has proved that. It is a time of fire, that element that brings joy, transformation, inspiration, creativity, ambition plus more. For me though I had to bring that under control via an air crystal.

Kite Magic
A TRIBUTE TO THE ELEMENT AIR
by Tracy Jeffery

A pagan children's book which explores the concepts of The Elements, Basic Magic and The Law of Return, and is suited to children aged 3 - 9 years old. Available only from...

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HERBES ~ Mullein

By Amethyst

If you are going to a Litha ritual this summer, why not take a torch with you. Or in this herbe's case, why not make your own torch!

MULLEIN

Latin Name: *Verbascum Thapsus*

Planet: Saturn

Celtic Tree Astrology:

Deity: Circe, Jupiter, Odysseus, Ulysses

Day of the Week: Saturday

Magickal: Herbe of Protection, Herbe of Purification, Religious Herbe

Folk Names: Blanket Leaf, Candlewick Plant, Feltwort, Graveyard Dust, Hedge Taper, Jupiter's Staff, Shepherd's Herbe, Torches.

Parts Used: Leaf & Flower

Mullein is best known for being from the Mediterranean, but it also commonly grows in Europe and Asia. A few species of Mullein have naturalized in North America and Australia (esp. Great Mullein). Mullein is not invasive, but persistent. It needs disturbed soil in direct sunlight and isn't usually a problem for farmers to weed. You can never quite get rid of it though because of the thousands upon thousands of seeds it produces which are shaken free in a breeze.

Enough names for you? In the 19th century Great Mullein had well over 40 different common names in English alone. In the Midwestern United States, including Texas, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona, Mullein is commonly known as Cowboy Toilet Paper. The Latin name *Verbascum* is considered to be a corruption of *barbascum*, from the Latin *barba* (a beard), in allusion to the shaggy foliage.

LORE & USAGE

This magick herb has been protective in various cultures. In ancient Greece, Ulysses defended himself from Circe's magic with mullein. In the old days in France, people would pass sprigs of mullein through a fire on St. John's Eve (better known among us as Midsummer) in order to protect cattle from sickness caused by sorcery. In England, putting mullein under the butter churn could bring back butter that had been witched



away. European travellers carried mullein or stuffed it into their shoes to protect them from attacks by wild animals (and also to make walking more comfortable). Nowadays, dream pillows are stuffed with mullein to protect against nightmares. It is mixed with dill, salt, and fennel and sprinkled around haunted areas to repel malicious spirits or ghosts, and it is a substitution for graveyard dirt in the recipes of various spells.



In India, mullein is regarded as the most potent safeguard against evil spirits and magic, and is hung over doors, in windows and carried in sachets. It is also used to banish demons and negativity. At one time Witches and magicians used oil lamps to illuminate their spells and rites and the downy leaves and stems of the mullein often provided the wicks.

Few herbes have such a strong association with the element, Fire. Mullein can be used to invoke the elemental energy of fire and bring literal fire into the ritual. Dried leaves can be soaked in oil. Some will dip them into a liquid mixture of saltpetre and water, and then hang them to dry. When tossed into a fire, they will blaze brightly.



Witches were supposed to use lamps and candles made with Mullein wicks for their incantations. One name of the plant, 'Hag's Taper', refers to this. Albeit, the word 'hag' is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word Haege or Hage (a hedge) - and the plant is also called 'Hedge Taper,' suggesting that the plant's tall spikes, studded with yellow blossoms, looked like a tall candle growing in the hedge. Mullein resembles a torch with its tip covered in bright yellow flowers with orange and red pollen mimicking flames. Perhaps Hecate's saffron robe was dyed with rich yellow Mullein flowers instead of actual saffron. The flowers were once used in ancient Roman dyes and pigments. Add the flowers to a recipe for a yellow magical ink – perhaps steeped in vodka with turmeric and saffron heated with frankincense or pine resin.

In ancient grimoires the powdered leaf is used as a substitute for graveyard dust.

Mullein is used to see manifestations of spirits, to see into the otherworld, and to commune with the spirits and deities who dwell there. It is used for divination and dream work or a combination of the two (prophetic dreaming). Mullein protects you in your sleep helping to combat both evil spirits

and nightmares. As it helps one to fall asleep when ingested, Mullein makes an excellent tea to encourage prophetic dreams and as an aid in lucid dreaming or astral travel while asleep.



Dreamer's Tea

2 parts Mullein flowers

1 part Poppy flowers

1 part Mugwort

2 parts Spearmint

Any drink with Mullein in it, should always be strained through fine muslin to remove any hairs in the hot water, otherwise they will cause terrible itching in the mouth.

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A very interesting article by Jim McDonald on Mullein is well worth reading. You can find it here:

<http://www.herbcraft.org/mullein.html>

Pictures

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Enter 2012- the first 3 months

By Julija Simas



To many 2012 means nothing special, it's just another year, but to those of us who choose to live a life tuned to the symbolic through cosmology or astrology it does seem more significant. There is no denying that a great shift of the human spirit has begun and the world around us will be significantly changed because of it.

As many take on the call to change their lives, to finally act on all those things that they have wanted to do, it seems the energy of the Uranus Pluto square gains momentum all around us. The OWS movement, the uprisings in the Arab world and now Russia, the shaky global economy and the threatened capitalist system all seem to reflect the potent Uranus Pluto archetype, but also seem very much tuned into the shift of Regulus into the sign of Virgo opposite Neptune. The focus on greed, money and power now shifts to efficiency, resourcefulness and an underlying need to protect the planet. Everyone is being called to take up the task to sift the wheat from the chaff and contribute to building a healthier planet, somehow.

Astrologers consult ingress charts to glean the flavour of the year or months ahead, so for a look at the first 3 months

of 2012 we look at the Capricorn Ingress chart for December 22 UTC, 2011 (See Agent37's article on the Capricorn Ingress). As with every ingress of the Sun to a cardinal point, for the past few years since Pluto's ingress into Capricorn in 2008, Pluto while hovering in these early degrees of Capricorn has squared, opposed or been conjunct the Sun at these quarterly turning points. As Uranus reached the cardinal point of zero Aries in mid-2010 and now in 2011, we have seen and felt its influence strongly. It's as if everyone suddenly woke up and things have been radically changing ever since. As 2011 has shown, the mould has been broken, many uprisings, radical world shaping events have been moving us toward inevitable global shifts.



Quetzalcoatl - Teotihuacan Museum Mexico

For the Solstice chart all planets are moving direct except for Jupiter, which will station to move direct on 26th December. For 3 weeks

following all planets will be moving direct, and Mercury just moves out of its shadow phase at 19 Sagittarius from its last retrograde, an indicator or a window of opportunity perhaps to move forward and get on with it. What a great start for all those New Year's resolutions. Mars in Virgo will break the momentum when it will turn retrograde on 23rd January, coinciding with Chinese New Year, a New Moon in Aquarius and the entrance of the Year of the Dragon.



Depiction of Venus brightest when in a phase 36 degrees away from the Sun. Museum of Archeology – Mexico City

The Year of the Dragon and 2012 coincide also with what is known as the “Return of Quetzalcoatl”, (1) a Mesoamerican supreme deity, a feathered serpent, who represents the union of spirit and matter. Quetzalcoatl was known to live around 400BCE in Teotihuacán. He left this world, because of its corruption and demise and also because he saw himself as a key figure in this corruption. Quetzalcoatl said he would return when the world had changed for the better. This Mesoamerican High Priest was highly revered and was said to represent Venus as a morning Star. His twin brother Xolotl represented the evening star. Like many cultures around the world, to the Mesoamericans Venus's movements were closely followed, her rising out of the Sun's beams as a morning star formed the beginning of her cycle and the Mayan Tzolkin, based on a 9 month calendar of 20 months x 14 days, 280 days. Venus, and her glyph, the Circle of Spirit on top of the Cross of Matter, are strongly attuned to the same meaning of Quetzalcoatl, blending Spirit and Matter and the twins represent Gemini. Venus will make her transit across the Sun in June 2012 in the sign of Gemini.

The fall of seven Macaw is a Mayan myth, stemming from the Popol Vuh which tells the story of the fall of Seven Macaw, a corrupt and greedy ruler who has ruled the last age of Man and is avenged by the twin sons of One Hunaphu a Sun God. One Hunaphu is then replaced on his throne as the rightful ruler of the next coming age. This myth resonates powerfully with the rebirth of the solstice Sun on the solstice date 21-12-12 – and has been extensively written about and researched over the last few decades. These are all metaphors representing a Rebirth of human consciousness. This shift also strongly coincides with Regulus, star of Kings moving to Virgo around 2012. (2)

History became Legend, Legend became Myth. (2) Our connection to universal myths and archetypes continues to guide our journey forward.

As most of the people in the world don't follow Astrology, Ingress charts or celebrate the natural Wheel of the Year, most do however stay attuned to the beginning of a year. We follow a Gregorian calendar if we like it or not, so our New Year starts on 1/1/2012. I have chosen a chart for the 1/1/12 00:00 am at Caroline Atoll – Kiribati, the first land mass to get the first daylight on the planet after the clock turns 00:00 at the international date line.



Significantly the Moon and Uranus are both at Zero Aries, new beginnings of a collective kind. The Moon relates to the people, what we sense and how we feel. It seems we are all restless, unsure, yet spirited and ready for change. Moon Uranus aspects shake us up, taking away any certainty that we may have and any concepts of feeling safe and secure. Instead we are being asked to feel safe in our insecurities. What? Yes Moon and Uranus

are extreme opposites. In the end Moon / Uranus aspects are liberating, freeing and enlightening as we shake away past habits and what we have been depending on. We have outgrown many attachments, it is time to detach from the past and jump boldly into the future. With both Moon and Uranus in the sign of Aries, new beginnings await the warrior in all of us

Next the Sun, our shining light and guide, is conjunct Pluto, although the exact conjunction was two days before, this Pluto Sun conjunction on the first day of the year has been getting closer and stronger over the past few years. With the Sun at 9 degrees Capricorn and Pluto at 7 degrees at the start of 2012, this will now intensify with Pluto at 9 degrees and the Sun also at 9 on 1/1/13 and still aligned on this day into 2014 and 2015. Indicators of the great shift in human consciousness, on a day when the past is left behind and we all move to symbolic fresh new starts. With Regulus opposite Neptune and the 7 looming Pluto Uranus exact squares yet to come, 2012 seems like the beginning and a gateway to so much more.

On a mundane level this Pluto/Sun combination relates to the many countries around the world that have their Sun at 9-10 Degrees of Capricorn, as they were founded on 1st of January. This includes Syria, the UK, Australia, Taiwan, Lebanon, Sudan, Brunei and others. The Sun also relates to Heads of state, presidents and leaders and as we can see many "Heads" have been losing control recently and will continue to do so.

The year also begins with an ongoing Saturn Neptune trine, with both at 28 degrees, Saturn of Libra and Neptune of Aquarius, great co-ordinates for promises of collective peace and justice, but unfortunately they don't stand alone. As the opposition between the two a few years ago, 2006- 2007 in Leo and Aquarius, heightened a sense in all of us that our collective dreams had become material, the world had become driven by profits and greed as prices and consumerism skyrocketed. We get a sense that now we are moving forward with that, where spirit and spirituality are more seriously considered as a must in our survival. There is a great need to

spiritualize a very material world and in the words of Charles Harvey – "materialise the spiritual".

When Neptune moves to Pisces on Feb 4th, Saturn turns retrograde in Libra only 2 days later at 29:30 degrees of Libra. It's almost as though Saturn reneges in joining Neptune in the waters, just yet. Let Neptune sort out his domain first, thank the Goddess really, it may be all too much if it happened at once. Saturn will ingress into Scorpio on Oct 6th 2012 and then both will be in the most passionately tuned signs and in water. This is an intense and highly passionate combination, where passions override sensibility and rationality. An almost anything goes attitude takes hold. Neptune has not entered water since its move through Scorpio in 1960's and early 70's. Think about the wild nature and uninhibited spirit that arose during this era, the music, the clothes, the drugs. Now Neptune, a boundless planet moves to an endless sign, Pisces, together they conjure up images of extremes, wildness, anything goes extremes, giving much hope to changing many attitudes, breaking barriers as it goes, but also giving rise to many destructive, who cares, sacrificial attitudes and a possible spiralling into an abyss. As astrology is always good at seeing two sides to any situation, at the same time, a spirit rises; a spirit rises to reinvent the world for the better. Pisces is the last sign in the zodiac and Neptune our furthest planet- together we are creating and germinating the seeds of the future. Let us nurture those seeds and regenerate the spirit of our collective human experience with peace, love, compassion and wisdom.

During 2012 Mercury begins its retrograde cycles from starting in Fire signs and ending in Water signs. In March it begins a retrograde in Aries and moves back to Pisces. Then the next retrograde period begins in Leo and retrogrades back into Cancer, then Sagittarius and back to Scorpio. From fire, moving forward, we get caught up back in the water, held up by the past. Indicators of perhaps a frustrating year with one step forward and two steps back. Not a sign of moving or leaping easily ahead. The transitions to a new world as Uranus Moon in the above new year chart suggest, the

ongoing Pluto Sun alignments or the ongoing Uranus Pluto squares suggest, this is a long process and definitely not completed in just 2012.

The first of these Mercury retrogrades starting on 14 March happens at the same time as a grand Earth trine alignment between a retro Mars in Virgo, Pluto in Capricorn and Venus conjunct Jupiter in Taurus all at 9 degrees of Earth signs. A sure sign of the shifts we are expecting taking hold on some levels. Jupiter and Venus together make a pretty picture in the evening sky, with Venus close to her max elongation east of the Sun at 46 degrees. Venus a significant planet in 2012, after this max elongation she begins to move back closer to the Sun as she nears the Earth and her retrograde phase, where she is most vulnerable and out of sorts, but this time she will be making her very rare occultation across the Sun.

Quite a magical combination returns in 2012 with Jupiter in Taurus and Neptune in Pisces in Feb 2012. Taurus and Pisces are both Venusian signs by rulership and exaltation. These two planets first aspect each other by sextile when Neptune enters Pisces in early Feb, a quintile forms in late March, and the connection ends in a square when Jupiter leaves Taurus for Gemini in mid-June and just after the Transit of Venus. This combination does not happen often, last time Neptune was in Pisces and Jupiter was in Taurus was 1857-58. Neptune and Jupiter travel well together, both attuned to expansive energy and in feminine signs bring with them a sense of reality merging with

dreams and ideals coming together in a divine understanding. Let's take this opportunity to channel some divinely inspired yet real outcomes that are usually more difficult to grasp.



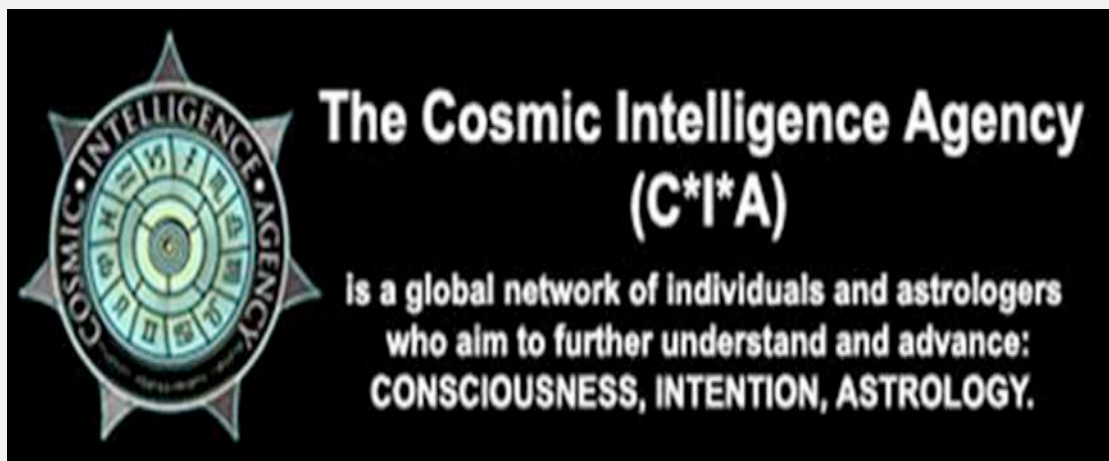
As Venus plays a central role in 2012 so consider the moving into 2012 as a time to re-evaluate our connection of spirit to matter. As the glyph of Venus reminds us to contemplate what drives our material needs, our consciousness and how it is earthed? 2012 represents the end of the world as we know it, a dawn of a new awareness and a growing enthusiasm to return the world to be driven by the right Values. Our conscious evolution doesn't happen by itself, or without us. With the right Values directing our way forward 2012 are shaping up to be an important time in redirecting our common future.

The possibilities are endless; let's keep not only the vision but the intentions strong.

For further reading see my article in the current issue of The Mountain Astrologer where I write in the forum about 2012 and the Reasons to have a Year of Astrology in 2012. TMA now have a digital version of the magazine available.

<http://mountainastrologer.com/tma/>

Wellbeing Magazine also features and an Article on 2012 and "The Year of Astrology" available in newsagents and bookstores. Wellbeing Magazine 2012 see <http://www.wellbeing.coM.u>





ADRIANA'S BOOK CORNER

New books on the block

Merry meet!

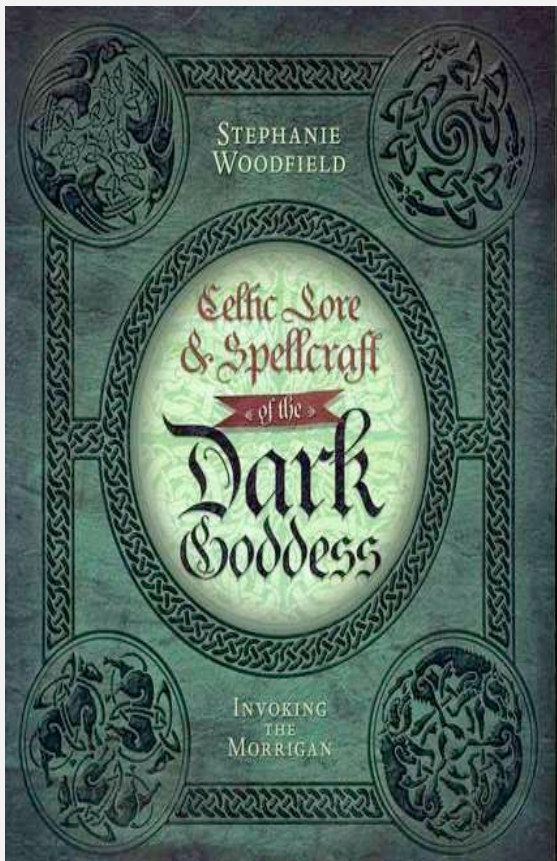
Today I thought I would just give a few ideas for last minute Christmas presents (if you do give Christmas presents).

Celtic Lore & Spellcraft of the Dark Goddess

Invoking the Morrigan

By: Stephanie Woodfield

ABN: 9780738727677



I am really excited about this book. I'll wait until after Christmas and if I haven't received it as a present (little nudge to my friends who read this =-)) I'll buy it from Llewellyn.

It is a book about working with "the Morrigan's rich history and origins, mythology, and



magic". You will be working with the Morrigan as the dark Goddess, in her many expressions, including her triple aspect Macha, Anu and Dabd, and Morgan Le Fay. It is a guide which includes exercises, rituals, and spells, based on Celtic tradition. The book consists of 4 parts, Who is the Morrigan, the Three Morrigan, the Faces of the Morrigan and Ancient Goddess, Modern Worship. Sneaking through the book was fantastic; it was so difficult to stop reading to go back to work! It is an amazing book full of information, myth and practical exercises; maybe in a few months when I have actually read it all I'll review it here.

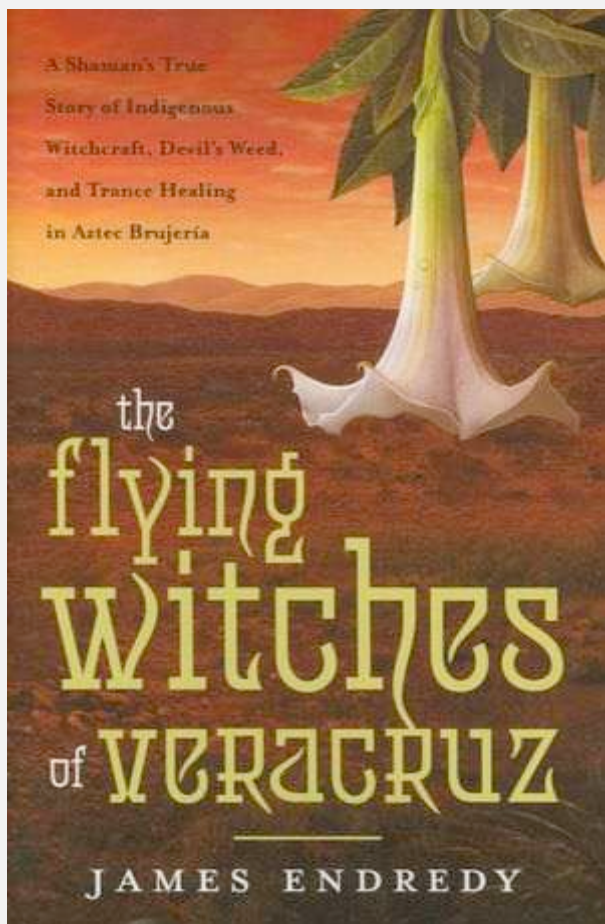
The Flying Witches of Veracruz

A Shaman's True Story of Indigenous Witchcraft, Devil's Weed, and Trance Healing in Aztec Brujeria

By: James Endredi

ABN: 978073872756

In a previous issue I wrote about a wonderful book by James Endredi (Beyond 2012; a Shaman's call to personal change and the transformation of global consciousness) and



how much I enjoyed his book. So when I saw his new book being released I knew I had to post about it here! (Another little nudge to my friends). Also because this book is about brujería and santería, or Aztec Witchcraft as they also call it in the book.

The book is the author's account of his visit to Veracruz and his training as a curandero (healer). In the introduction, Endredy talks about Witchcraft, Shamanism and Wicca; he talks about his own path and how he does not consider himself Wiccan, however how his path is related to it in his lifestyle and choices. He then talks about the history on witchcraft in the Pre-Columbian Americas and how it is in the present time. The book consists of three parts, part 1 is Witches, Spells and Consequences, part 2 Flying, Dreaming and the Devil's Weed, and part 3 is Dream-Trance Healing.



SEASONS OF THE GODDESS

Perspectives from the Southern Hemisphere

Seasons of the Goddess describes the journey of one woman as she seeks to find ways to express her spirituality in Australia. It provides a perspective on connecting with the Divine Feminine, the unique land and the changing seasons of the year. In the book you will find ritual links to the unique flora and fauna, connections with the traditional wheel of the year and examples of rituals and celebrations in tune with this remarkable country. The art work of Annette Cutelli is inspired and inspiring; the Goddess truly speaks through her.

Blessed be, Tricia Szirom

RRP: \$25

To order go to www.gaiagarden.com.au

Kitchen Witchery

Almond and brandy cake with poached peaches



Cooking Time
40 minutes

Ingredients (serves 8)

Melted butter, to grease
300g (3 cups) almond meal
315g (1 1/2 cups) caster sugar
5 eggs
2 tbs brandy
250g unsalted butter, melted
2 tbs slivered almonds
215g (1 cup) caster sugar, extra
375ml (1 1/2 cups) water
8 green cardamom pods, bruised
375ml (1 1/2 cups) dessert wine
6 small peaches
Pure icing sugar, to dust
Double cream, to serve

Method

Preheat oven to 180°C.
Brush a square 20cm (base

measurement) cake pan with melted butter to grease. Line the base and sides with non-stick baking paper.

Combine the almond meal and sugar in a medium bowl.

Whisk together the eggs and brandy in a separate bowl. Add the butter and whisk until just combined. Add to the sugar mixture and stir until well combined. Pour into the prepared pan. Sprinkle with slivered almonds. Bake for 35-40 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.

Meanwhile, combine the extra sugar, water and cardamom pods in a saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring, for 5 minutes or until the sugar dissolves. Bring to a

simmer. Cook, without stirring, for 2 minutes. Add the wine and simmer for 2 minutes or until the mixture thickens slightly. Add the peaches and simmer for 5 minutes or until just tender. Set aside to cool.

Peel the peaches and discard the skin. Halve. Remove and discard the stones. Return the peaches to the syrup.

Place cake on a serving platter. Dust with icing sugar. Serve warm or at room temperature with cream and poached peaches.

<http://www.taste.com.au/recipes/19086/almond+and+brandy+cake+with+poached+peaches>



SPIRITUAL MEDIUM

HARRY T.

Harry is a naturally gifted Spiritual Medium, Visionary and Medical Intuitive. Born with many spiritual abilities, Harry always felt he was different.

From a very young age he always had a strong sense of 'knowing', being able to 'know' and 'see' certain things about people and situations. His ability to communicate with the Spirit realm was evident since birth. From the age of six he began using tarot cards and loved collecting crystals, 'playing' with them instead of 'normal' childhood toys.

After experiencing a life changing event at 14 years of age - the passing of his beloved mother - Harry knew he needed to use his God given gifts to be of service to others.

Studying the metaphysical arts for several years, he has fine-tuned his abilities to become an accomplished Celebrity Psychic and Teacher in the field, which has in turn rewarded him with a high level of respect amongst his colleagues. Known for his accuracy, warmth and empathic nature, his clientele has become both nationwide and international.



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PART 2 (ADVANCED) - SUNDAY MARCH 25th 2012

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN

PSYCHICS ASSOCIATION

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER OF THE

INTERNATIONAL PSYCHICS ASSOCIATION

WITCHY CRAFTS



Midsummer Incense

- 2 parts Sandalwood
- 1 part Mugwort
- 1 part Chamomile
- 1 part Gardenia petals
- a few drops Rose oil
- a few drops Lavender oil
- a few drops Yarrow oil
- 3 parts myrrh

Midsummer Oil

- 4 drops lavender oil
- 3 drops Rosemary oil
- 1 drop Pine Oil
- Use Sunflower oil as your base here

DECEMBER TAROT READING 10 of Staff



In this card you see a man holding a baby in his arms. This child is a great responsibility and hard work. But with care and nurturing this child will bring great fulfilment and love.

The Ten of Staffs signifies a time of taking responsibilities for your actions. This is a time of extremely hard work and effort. But this is what you would expect for something you really love doing!

2012 will be a time of showing the ambitious side of your character. Don't hold back, give your goals all you can and your efforts will be successful.

The ten of staffs also suggests that it's time to take a look at your life, your aims and commitments. Perhaps positive changes can be made to ease your burden?

Tarot card is from Glastonbury Tarot by Lisa Tenzin-Dolma

http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/incense/ss/Litha_Incense.htm

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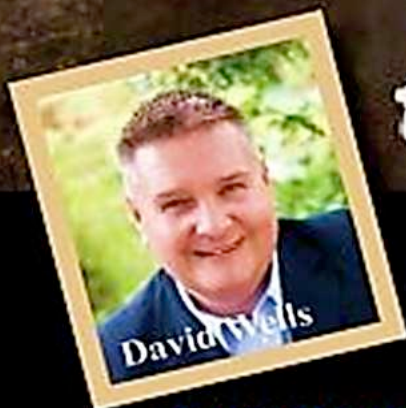
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Spirit Photography - Andrea Kaldy
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Welcome to SOuL Searchers Magazine.

This free bi-monthly online magazine was developed from SOuL Searchers Investigations as a way of communicating our experiences and to further our explorations into the realms of the supernatural and the unexplained.

Our magazine is produced every two months and provides topical information to keep you up to date on news and the latest developments happening in the Australian paranormal community. In addition to our announcements on upcoming activities and events, SOuL Searchers Paranormal Magazine will contain articles, photos and information on the paranormal, parapsychology, ghost tours, mysterious locations, psychics and mediums etc.



Click on the magazine cover to see the issue

Join our Mailing List

...so you'll know when a new issue is available.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SOL?

SOL Full Moon Circle February 3, 2012



Spheres Of Light holds regular Full Moon Circles near Engadine (Southern Sydney, Australia) on the Friday before each Full Moon. These Full Moon gatherings are Open Circles, meaning that all Pagans are welcome to come along any time and experience a Full Moon circle with us. [Details here...](#)

SOL Meditation in the Royal National Park Sunday February 19, 2012



[Click here for more information.](#)

Come join us for meditation in the beautiful surrounds of The Royal National Park. Our meditations will be conducted every third Sunday of the month. Please email inquiries@spheresoflight.com.au for times and meet up details.

(Please Note: you must be over 18 years of age to attend any SOL gatherings, events, classes & workshops.)

OTHER PAGAN AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Please email us the details of any pagan or community events, classes, workshops or regular meetings that you'd like to see promoted here in this free listing.

PAN Full Moon Public Circle Saturday January 10, 2012 at Seven Hills, Sydney ([map](#)) 8:30pm



PAN Inc. full moon ritual. PAN runs a public full moon ritual each month at Rotaract Hill, Seven Hills. Anyone is welcome to attend - the purpose of the ritual is to provide members of the pagan community an opportunity to celebrate the full moon together & network with friends, it is also a public ritual where those new to paganism can attend to learn more and meet like-minded others, and the rituals also help inform the general public about what pagans do and dispel misguided myths about paganism and witchcraft.

The circle is held on the top of Rotaract Hill on Terminus Road Seven Hills NSW, just next to the train station. Getting there is easy. If you take the train, the hill is less than five minutes' walk (and easily visible from the station). If you drive, there is plenty of parking available both at the base of the hill and across Terminus Road. Full Moon info and contact details here.

The Teapot Pagans SUMMER Gathering



Friday, January 27, 2012 at 4:00pm until Sunday, January 29, 2012 at 4:00pm.
Where: CANBERRA, ACT (address given on registration).

This gathering is at the same venue at the Spring and Mid-Winter Gatherings, in Canberra, ACT.

It's a brilliant venue with heating, cooling and comfortable bunk rooms, superb kitchen, and rooms for workshops and rituals. There will be Pagans from all over Australia.

The weekend will include lots of workshops, discussions, rituals and time to sit around and have fun, meet old friends, and hopefully make some new ones.

Meanwhile if you're needing more info, phone Lilitu on 02 6230 2272 (bus hours - except Monday & Thursday), or email lilitu.teapot@gmail.com.



SOuL Searchers is Spheres of Light's paranormal investigations subgroup. They use a common sense scientific approach to all investigations but also have an open mind to all theories & methodologies.



Crone and Sage is a website that is dedicated to our pagan elders who want to share their knowledge and wisdom, magic and life experiences in the form of articles, poetry, recipes, artwork and music.



The Spheres Of Light Holistic Centre has within its members practitioners who can provide Spiritual Healing in a variety of natural healing modalities.



If you want to know about current topics click [here](#). This is a place where you can discuss ideas and catch up on general news. So if you want to participate please become a member as we would love to hear from you.



The National Pagan Directory is a Spheres Of Light initiative to help Australian Pagans connect with each other in their local area. It is a FREE listing & provides links to information about covens, groups, workshops, retreats & other special Pagan events, plus Aussie Pagan businesses & services. If you would like your coven, group, regular meet-up to be listed in the NPD please send us your details. To list your one-off or special events please use our Australian Pagan Events forums. We also invite Celebrants in the Pagan community to promote their services in the NPD. For further information & contact details click on the banner above.



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